

ICHTHYOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

DURING the past year a number of fishes have been forwarded from Darnley Island by Dr. J. R. Tosh, among which are the six following additions to the Australian fauna :—

1. *NEBRIUS CONCOLOR* Rüppell. This is useful as a confirmation of Macleay's record of its occurrence at Port Moresby, N.G. (v. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vii, p. 597).

2. *PLATOPHRYS PANTHERINUS* (Rüppell). It is strange that no record of the presence of this fish in Australian or Papuan waters has hitherto been made, since it is apparently common at Darnley Island, whence we have received six examples.

3. *AMPHIPRION BIFASCIATUS* (Bloch). One specimen.

4. *ELERIA TALA* (Cuvier & Valenciennes). Two young fishes.

5. *SALARIAS ALBOAPICALIS* Ogilby. Two beautiful examples, one adult (75 millim.), the other half-grown.

6. *LETHRINUS HARAK* (Forskål). The only previous Australian record is the curt "Aus Sydney" in the *Reise Novara, Fische*, p. 81; as it has been shown that a number of species in that work were wrongly attributed to that locality, this record should be viewed with distrust.

For the following six Darnley Island is a new record :—

1. *CARYTHROICHTHYS INTESTINALIS* (Ramsay). Previously recorded as *C. waitei* from Cairns Reef, Cooktown, N.Q., by McCulloch (v. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, xxxv, p. 307).

2. *CROMILEPTES ALTIVELIS* (Cuvier & Valenciennes). Previously collected by McCulloch at Cairns Reef.

3. *KYPHOSUS CINERASCENS* (Forskål). Recorded from Torres Strait as *Pachymetopon squamosum* by Macleay (Ibid., v, p. 407).

4. *DECAPTERUS RUSSELLII* (Rüppell). A fine specimen gave me the chance of comparing the Moreton Bay fish, previously recorded as "*Decapterus? leptosomus* Ogilby (List Edib. Fish. Moreton Bay, p. 2); and I am now convinced that, while differing from the latter, both specimens are identical with the former, and probably with *Caranx eclipsifer* de Vis. (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, ix, p. 541).

5. *AMBLYGOBIUS PHALÆNA* (Cuvier). Recorded from Murray Island by McCulloch (*Ibid.*, xxxvi, p. 347).

6. *VALENCIENNEA LONGIPINNIS* (Bennett). Previously recorded and figured by Waite from specimens collected by Hedley at Green Island, Cairns. (*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iv, p. 271, pl. xliii).

A small but highly interesting collection was also received from Capt. McDonald, who had collected them at Thursday Island. The following species are worthy of inclusion here :—

1. *TYLOSURUS CAUDIMACULATUS* (Cuvier). Not hitherto recorded from Queensland, the only other Australian record being "Port Darwin" by Macleay (*Ibid.*, ii, p. 363).

2. *POLYDACTYLUS MULTIRADIATUS* (Günther). Two small polynemids differing from all the other Australian members of the family in the forward position of the anal fin, which originates in advance of the soft dorsal. As they agree fairly well with Günther's description of the above species, I wrote to Mr. Tate Regan asking him to examine the type, a badly mounted specimen, as to this character. This he very kindly and promptly did, with the result that he wrote me that, so far as it was possible to judge from the state of the specimen, this was the case. We may, therefore, congratulate ourselves on the rediscovery of this Chinese species, of which so little was previously known.

3. *PRIOPIS MARIANUS* (Günther). Two specimens ; thus extending its range so far north from the Mary River.

4. *TRICHIURUS HAUMELA* (Forsk.) A beautiful specimen, which enables me to add this fish to the Australian fauna with certainty, previous records being open to doubt.

Note on the Australian Trichiuri.—The first record of the occurrence of a *Trichiurus* in Australian waters was made by Macleay in 1878 (*Ibid.*, p. 354), when he notices a specimen of *T. savala* collected by Spalding at Port Darwin ; three years later he adds *T. haumela* from "Port Jackson and Newcastle (*Ibid.*, v, p. 524). This identification, however, is incorrect, Macleay being unaware of the presence of a third species on the coast of New South Wales. This fish, which is most erratic in its appearances, was subsequently described as *T. coxii* by Ramsay & Ogilby (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales*, xii, p. 562), and to it Macleay's *T. haumela* record properly applies. No further reference to these fishes is made in any Australian work until 1893, when Kent (*Great Barrier Reef*, p. 288) referred to specimens of both *T. savala* and *T. haumela* as having "been contributed to the Queensland Museum." What is probably the former of these specimens is now on exhibition there and was obtained in Moreton Bay, but the specimen of *T. haumela* can not be found.

The following eight species also claim recognition for one reason or other :—

1. ANCHOVIA SETIROSTRIS (Broussonet). A specimen is in the Queensland Museum collected at Cooktown by the late Mr. Kendal Broadbent.
2. ZENARCHOPTERUS DISPAR (Cuvier & Valenciennes). Three specimens, labeled "Torres Strait," are in the same collection.
3. SPHYRÆNA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ Günther. One specimen from Moreton Bay.
4. TRACHICHTHYS AUSTRALIS (Shaw). One from Pimpama Island, M.B.
5. MIONURUS GILLII Steindachner. This species may be added to the already long list of cheilodipterids which carry their eggs in the mouth; two examples thus engaged were sent from Eidsvold by Dr. T. Bancroft.
6. ACANTHOCLINUS LITTOREUS (Forster). The State Museum is indebted to Mr. J. L. Bond for a specimen collected in Moreton Bay. It had been previously obtained at Masthead Island by both McCulloch and Longman.
7. CÆSIO CÆRULAUREUS (Lacépède). Not uncommon on the Snapper Grounds off Moreton Bay, where it is known as the "Fusilier."
8. RUPELLIA ECHINOCEPHALA (Rüppell). Originally described from the Red Sea, this curious little fish was next recorded from the "China Seas" by Dr. Günther (Brit. Mus. Catal. Fish., iii, p. 35), and subsequently from Bowen (Fische d. Sudsee, p. 174, pl. cviii, fig. D). The writer collected a specimen on Nor-West Islet in 1910, and Longman obtained some fine specimens on Masthead Island two years later.
9. LACTOPHRYS REIPUBLICÆ. This name is proposed for the Australian three-angled ostracionid. *Ostracion concatenatus* Bloch is a synonym of the East Atlantic *O. triqueter* Linnæus, described originally from one of Plumier's drawings, its habitat being "Les Antilles," as we are told by Bonnaterre.

The following Devisian species have come into notice during the year :—

1. SPHYRÆNA STRENUA (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, viii, 1883, p. 287) is *S. obtusata* Cuvier & Valenciennes, as also I think is *S. lineata* Stead (Edib. Fish. N. S. Wales, p. 47, pl. xv).
2. DACTYLOPHORA SEMIMACULATA (Ibid., p. 284) is *Cheilodactylus nigricans* Richardson (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1850, p. 63) and *C. nebulosus* Klunzinger (Arch. f. Nat., xxxviii, i, 1872, p. 24). It is also identical with *Psilocranium coxii* Macleay (Ibid., viii, p. 440). De Vis' genus, however, stands as it predates Macleay's by a few months. The correct name is, therefore, *Dactylophora nigricans* (Richardson).
3. CHÆROPS PERPULCHER (Ibid., ix, 1884, p. 877) is *C. cephalotes* Castelnau (Res. Fish. Austr., 1875, p. 39), as also is *C. hodgkinsoni* Kent (Great Barrier Reef, p. 296, pl. xv, fig. 2—much too highly colored). Correct name *Chærodon cephalotes* (Castelnau).

4. CHÆROPS OLIVACEUS (Ibid., p. 876) is *C. concolor* (Ibid.) and *C. unimaculatus* (Ibid., p. 877), not of Cartier 1873. Correct name *Chærodon olivaceus* (de Vis).

5. CHÆROPS GRAPHICUS (Ibid., p. 878) is *Sparus anchorago* Bloch (Ausl. Fisch., v, p. 108, pl. cclxxvi). Correct name *Chærodon anchorago* (Bloch).

6. CHÆROPS VENUSTUS (Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland, i, 1885, p. 147) is a valid species. This is the fish described by me as *Chærops ommopterus* Richardson (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1889, p. 158 & Edib. Fish. N. S. Wales, p. 130). Correct name *Chærodon venustus* (de Vis).

7. CHÆROPS ALBIGENA (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, ix, 1885, p. 876). This may be a good species, but it approaches very closely to *Labrus macrodontus* Lacépède (Poiss., iii, 1802, pp. 451 & 522), from which it differs only in the absence of a posterior canine and the coloration as given by Macleay. Correct name *Chærodon albigena* (de Vis).

8. TETRAROGE BELLONA (Ibid., p. 460) is *Cottus australis* Shaw (in White, Voy. N. S. Wales, 1790, p. 266). Correct name *Centropogon australis* (Shaw).